

has made to the Colorado Springs community and the greater art world.

A gifted artist, Mr. Bransby developed his interest in mural painting while studying at the Kansas City Art Institute. Since that time he has become an internationally renowned muralist. Recognized as a Phi Kappa Phi National Honorary and a Fellow of the National Society of Mural Painters, he is one of only a few painters to work in traditional fresco. Mr. Bransby studied at Colorado College and later at Yale University as a graduate fellow. He translated this formal training into a life dedicated to furthering American art as both an artist and educator.

Students from Yale University and Colorado College among others have benefited from Mr. Bransby's passion, and the citizens of Colorado from his extraordinary talent. Among Mr. Bransby's works are the history of aviation mural at the United States Air Force Academy and the pioneer scene in Cossit Hall at Colorado College. His magnificent depiction of 200 years of Colorado history featuring nearly 100 subjects, from early, unknown settlers to historical figures can be seen at Colorado's Pioneer Museum located right in my hometown of Colorado Springs.

My district and our Nation are fortunate to count among their citizens this extraordinary individual. Mr. Bransby has inspired generations by bringing to life, with vivid imagination, our history, and we owe him immense gratitude.

IN HONOR OF MRS. RHODA ANN  
SOKOL

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Rhoda Ann Sokol, a dedicated teacher and citizen from Long Branch, New Jersey. It is with great pride and admiration that I honor her today for her outstanding commitment to New Jersey's Jewish community and for the legacy she has left for her students, her family, and the people of Monmouth County.

Mrs. Sokol was born in New York at Beth Israel Hospital but lived most of her young life in West Long Branch, New Jersey. She graduated from Long Branch High School, my alma mater, and went on to obtain a bachelor of science degree from Monmouth College. She and her husband Robert were married for 40 years and raised three children in Ocean Township.

Mrs. Sokol was a very generous person and was incredibly dedicated to her work. She taught at the Jewish Community Center in Deal for 21 years and taught at the Solomon Schechter Academy in Howell for 23 years. She loved the arts and music and worked with students on musicals while she taught at Solomon Schechter. She will always be remembered as a teacher who adored her students and who was always willing to help them in any way she could.

There are many people all over Monmouth County who will never forget Mrs. Sokol. It gives me great pride to say that the Spirit of Israel Dance Company is performing a tribute concert to honor her memory. The concert will

take place on Sunday, March 4th and will showcase young dancers ranging from ages 14–20. This dance group has performed all over the world, including at the Maccabiah opening ceremony, Adloyada, Carmiel, various TV programs, and at numerous school events.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mrs. Rhoda Ann Sokol for her lifelong dedication to her community. While she was taken from the Long Branch community before her time, her friends, family, and students will never forget her.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF KEN  
BERKMAN

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in great sadness. My community has lost a great leader and a humanitarian: Ken Berkman.

Of all the things that can be said of Ken Berkman, the most profound is that he made a difference in his community. And to every good cause and every community project he brought a sparkling wit, a wry smile, a deep compassion, and an exuberant dedication. He built one of the leading law firms on Long Island, but understood that the foundation of a strong law firm is a good and flourishing community.

I have known Ken and his wife Irene for many years, but anyone involved in any facet of community life or any issue confronting Long Island has also known them.

Ken cared about his country. He cared about the town of Huntington. And cared most about his family. His legacy will be a standard of grace and commitment that to which others will aspire. He made our community better, and those who follow his example will continue to push our community forward.

That, Madam Speaker, is the true legacy of Ken Berkman. We lost him, but not the standard he set, and the difference he made to the people I represent in the United States Congress.

THOMASINA E. JORDAN INDIAN  
TRIBES OF VIRGINIA FEDERAL  
RECOGNITION

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, last year representatives and leaders of Virginia's Native American tribes left their communities and flew to England to participate in ceremonies that were a prelude to the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in America. Some of the distinguished Virginia residents who made this trip are the blood descendants and leaders of the surviving 7 tribes that once were a part of the Great Powhatan Confederacy that initially helped sustain the colonists during their difficult first years at Jamestown. Virginia's best known Indian, Pocahontas, traveled to Eng-

land in 1617 with her husband John Rolfe and was received by English royalty. She died a year later of smallpox and is buried in the chapel of the parish church in Gravesend, England.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. It would be a sad irony if the direct descendants of the native Americans who met these settlers, were still not recognized by the federal government. I, along with fellow Virginians, Reps. JO ANN DAVIS, BOBBY SCOTT and TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Reps. NICK RAHALL, NEAL ABERCROMBIE, DALE KILDEE, and FRANK PALLONE are introducing legislation today entitled the "Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act." This legislation will finally, and at long last, grant federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia: the Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Monacan Tribe, and the Nansemond Tribe.

Like most Native Americans, the Virginia tribes first welcomed western settlers, but quickly became subdued, pushed off their land, and, up through much of the 20th Century, denied full rights as U.S. citizens. Despite their devastating loss of land and population, the Virginia Indians successfully overcame years of racial discrimination that denied them equal opportunities to pursue their education and preserve their cultural identity. That story of survival doesn't encompass decades, it spans centuries of racial hostility and coercive state and state-sanctioned actions.

Their story, however is unique in two ways. First, they signed their peace treaties with the Kings of England, and second, they suffered centuries of state sanctioned hostilities. Unlike most tribes that resisted encroachment and obtained federal recognition when they signed peace treaties with the federal government, Virginia's six tribes signed their peace treaties with the Kings of England. Most notable among these was the Treaty of 1677 between these tribes and Charles the II. This treaty has been recognized by the State every year for the past 329 years when the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia accepts tribute from the tribes in a ceremony now celebrated at the State Capitol. I understand it is the longest celebrated treaty in the United States.

In the intervening years between 1677 and the birth of this nation, however, these tribes were dispossessed of most of their land and were too weak to pose a threat. They were, therefore, never in a position to negotiate and receive recognition from our nascent federal government. Last summer the English government reaffirmed its recognition of this treaty with the modern Virginia tribes.

Their unique history speaks to the reason Congress must act to recognize the Virginia tribes. They have experienced what has been called a "paper genocide" and been persecuted by the Commonwealth of Virginia. At the time when the federal government granted Native Americans the right to vote, Virginia's elected officials were embracing the eugenics movement and began adopting racially hostile laws targeted at those classes of people who did not fit into the dominant white society.

These actions culminated with the enactment of the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. This act empowered zealots, like Walter Plecker, a state official, to destroy records and reclassify in Orwellian fashion all non-whites as "colored." It targeted Native Americans and